

MARVEL
GRAPHIC
NOVEL

KULL™

THE VALE OF SHADOW

ALAN ZELENETZ & TONY DE ZUNIGA



PARENTAL ADVISORY

Marvel® Comics Presents

KULL™



the VALE OF SHADOW

Featuring the character created by Robert E. Howard

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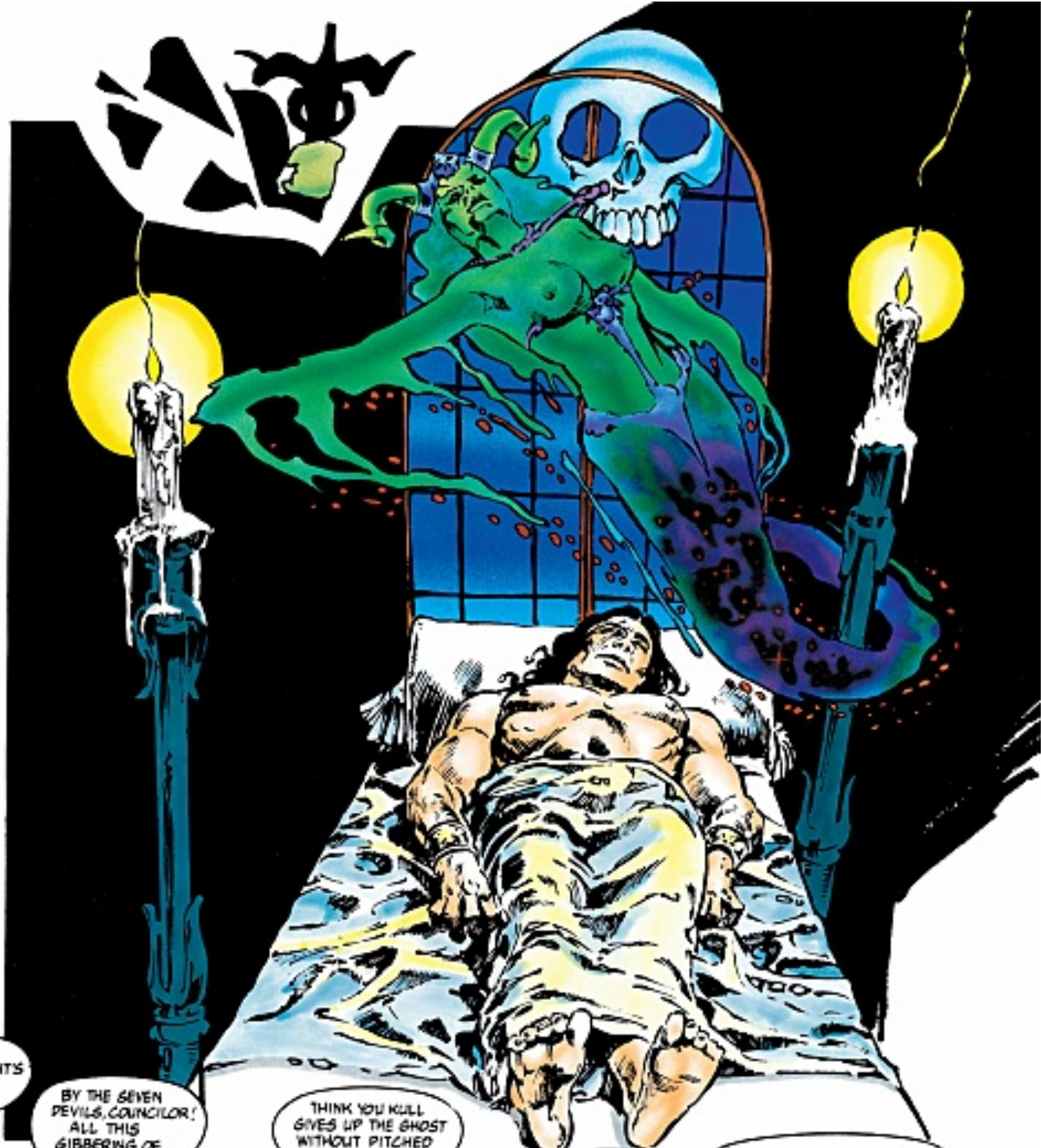
AND IT CAME TO
PASS IN THE DAYS
OF THE SEVEN
EMPIRES, BE-
FORE THE HEAVING
OCEANS DRANK
ATLANTIS...

...THAT KULL OF VALLUSIA MADE
WAR AGAINST COMYNORIA, AND--
WOE !-- KING KULL WAS WOUNDED...

...NEAR TO
DEATH, I FEAR.







ALAS, I FEAR
THIS DARK NIGHT'S
VIGIL NEARS
ITS END--

BY THE SEVEN
DEVILS, COUNCILOR!
ALL THIS
GIBBERING OF
DEATH!

THINK YOU KULL
GIVES UP THE GHOST
WITHOUT PITCHED
BATTLE?

BAH! HERE'S A MAN
NOT KILLED ONE-TWO-
THREE FOR ALL THE
WOUNDS HE WEARS.

KNOW THIS-- THE SHAMANS
AMONG MY PEOPLE OUT ON
THE PICTISH ISLES SPEAK IN
RAVED WHISPERS OF ONLY
ONE ATLANTEAN...

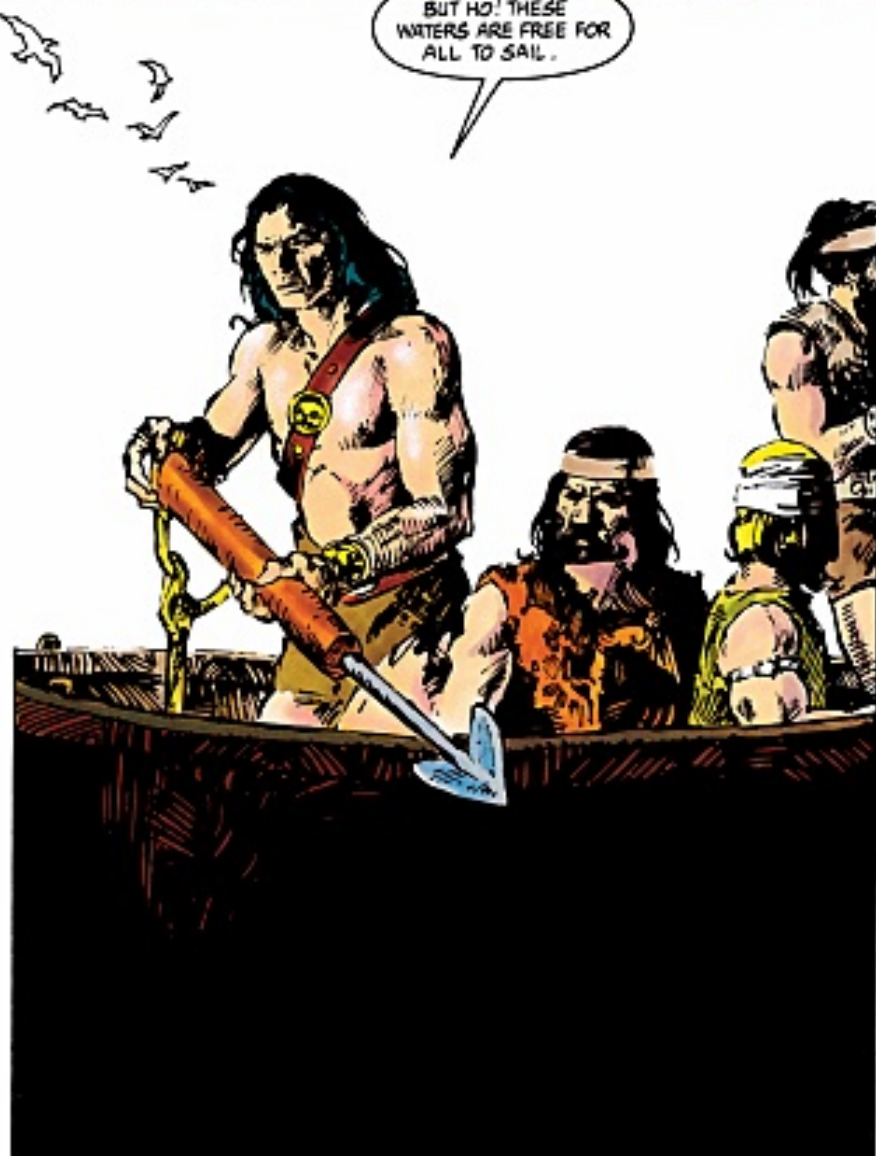




"IT HAPPENED, THEY SAY, ON
THE OPEN WESTERN SEA..."

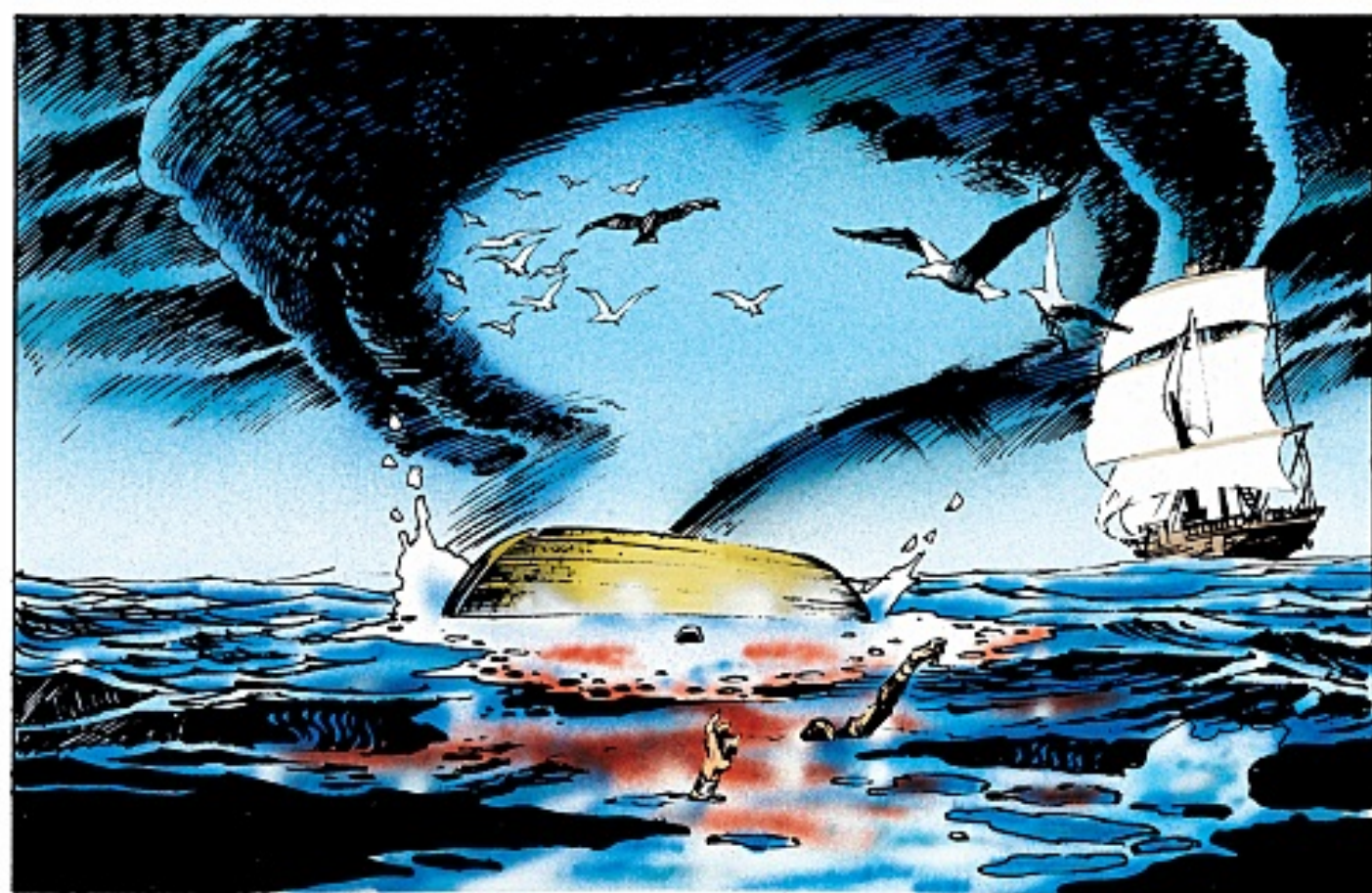
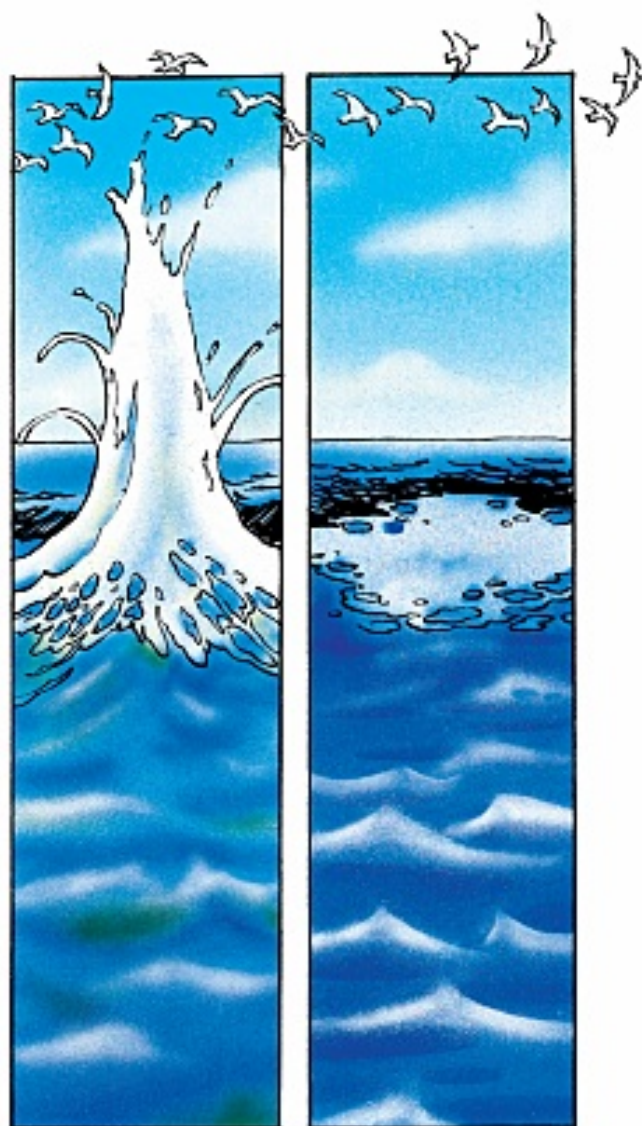


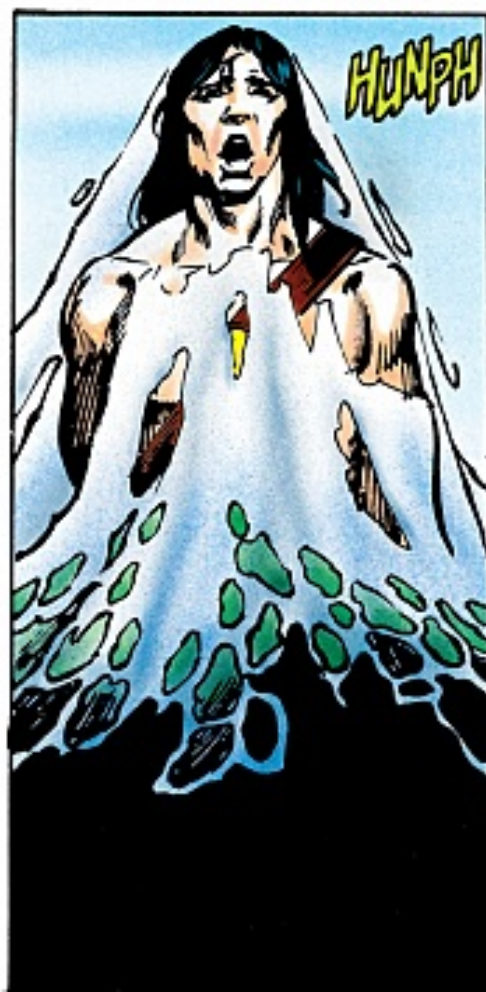
BUT NO! THESE
WATERS ARE FREE FOR
ALL TO SAIL.



WHY DO THEY DRIVE
AGAINST US?

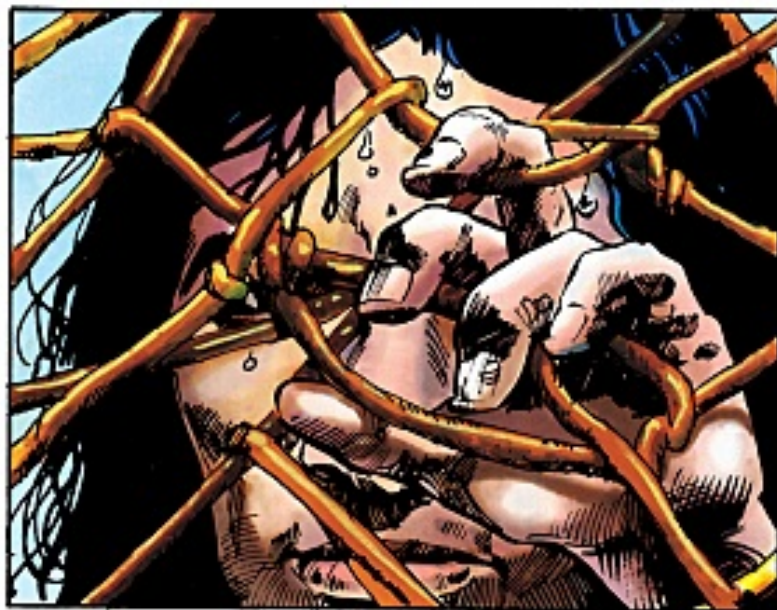
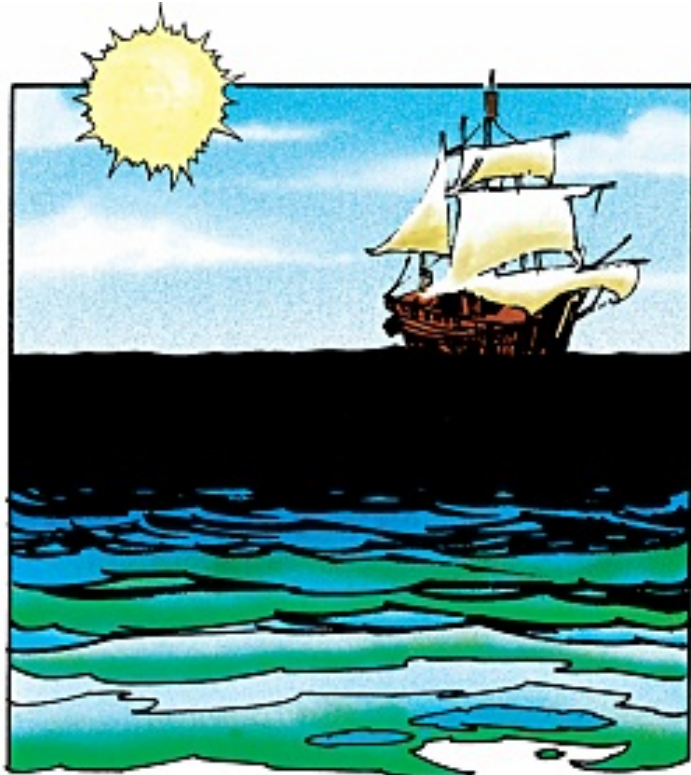




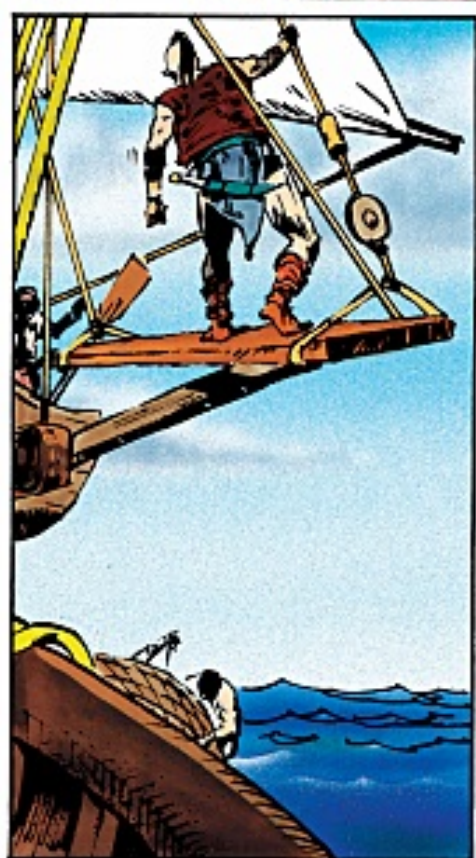


"ONE, AND ONE ALONE,
THE SHAMANS OF MY
PEOPLE SAY..."

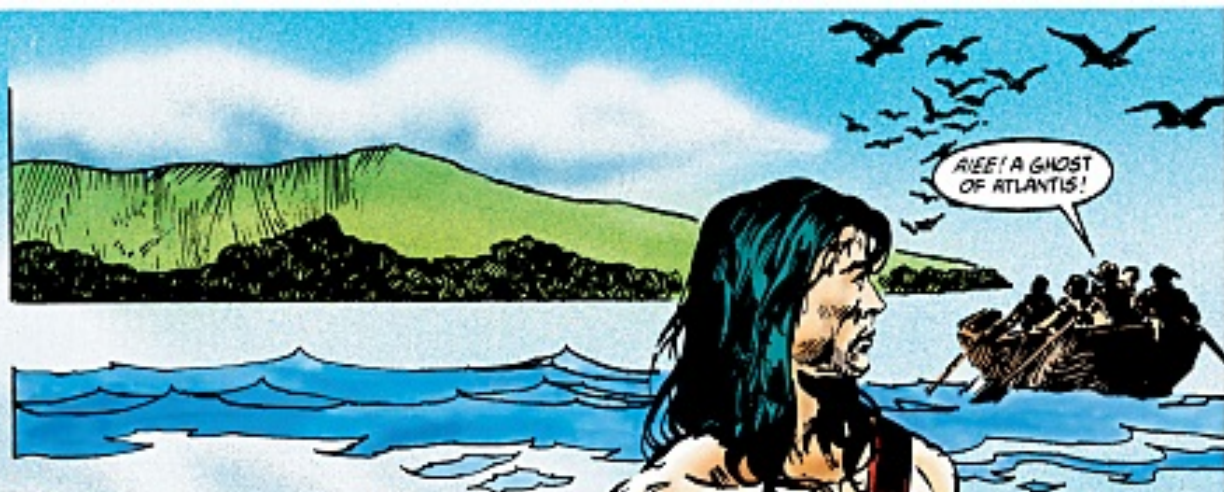




"ONE WITH SINOWS
TAUT AS KNOTTED
HEMP..."



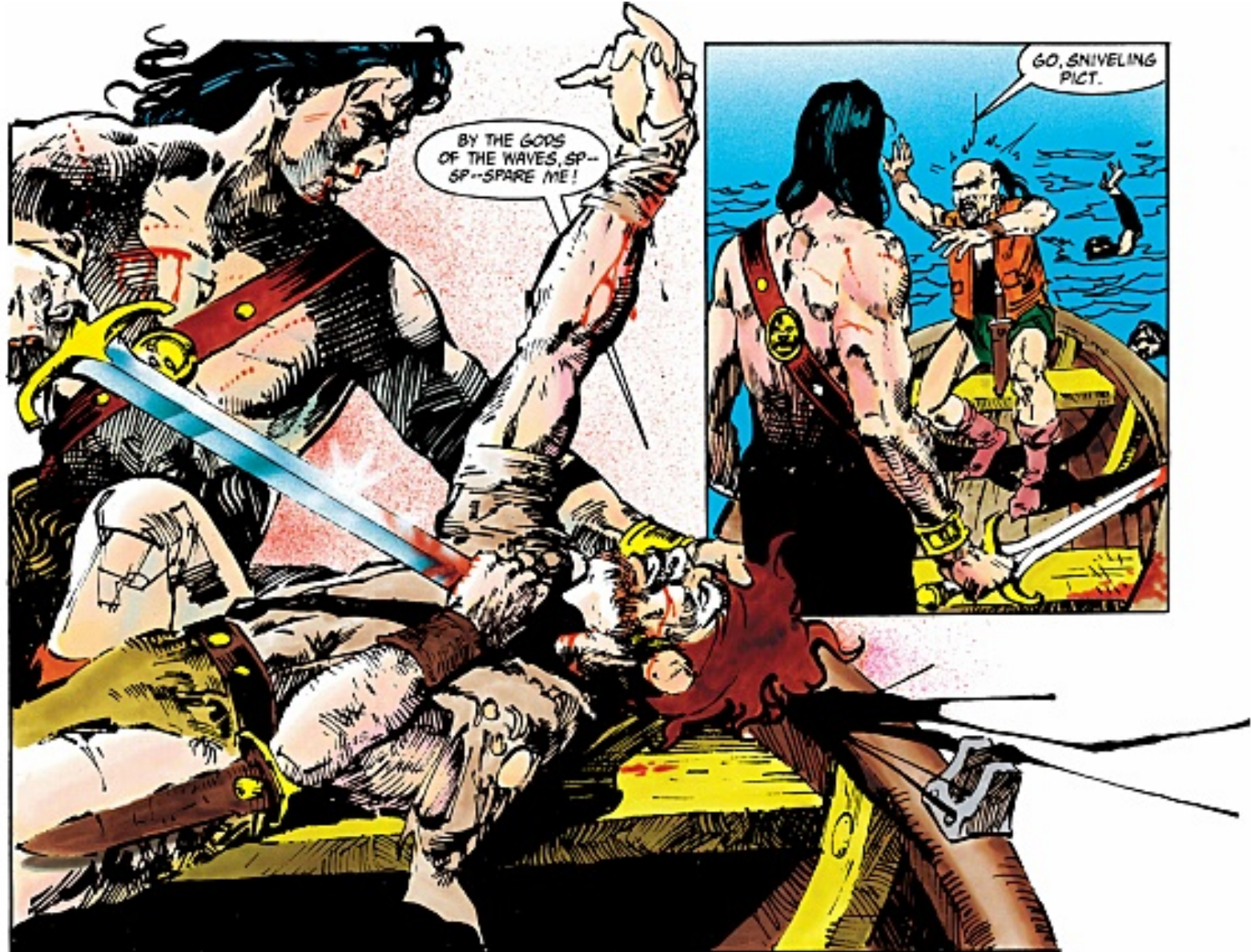




"AYE, SINGLEHANDED,
MIND YOU..."

BLOOD
AND MAYOG,
DOGS!





"...NONE OTHER THAN
THIS OUR LORD WHO
LIES BEFORE US."

WELL, SPEAK,
WOMAN. WHAT BOON
IS IT YOU CRAVE?

HEAR THESE
OUR KING'S RAVINGS,
SPEAR-SLAYER. WILL
YOU STILL DENY--?

COUNCILOR TH
SPEAKS THE TRUTH,
BAULE.

KULL RANTS TO
THE EMPTY AIR AS
A MAN IN THE LAST
THROES OF AGONY.







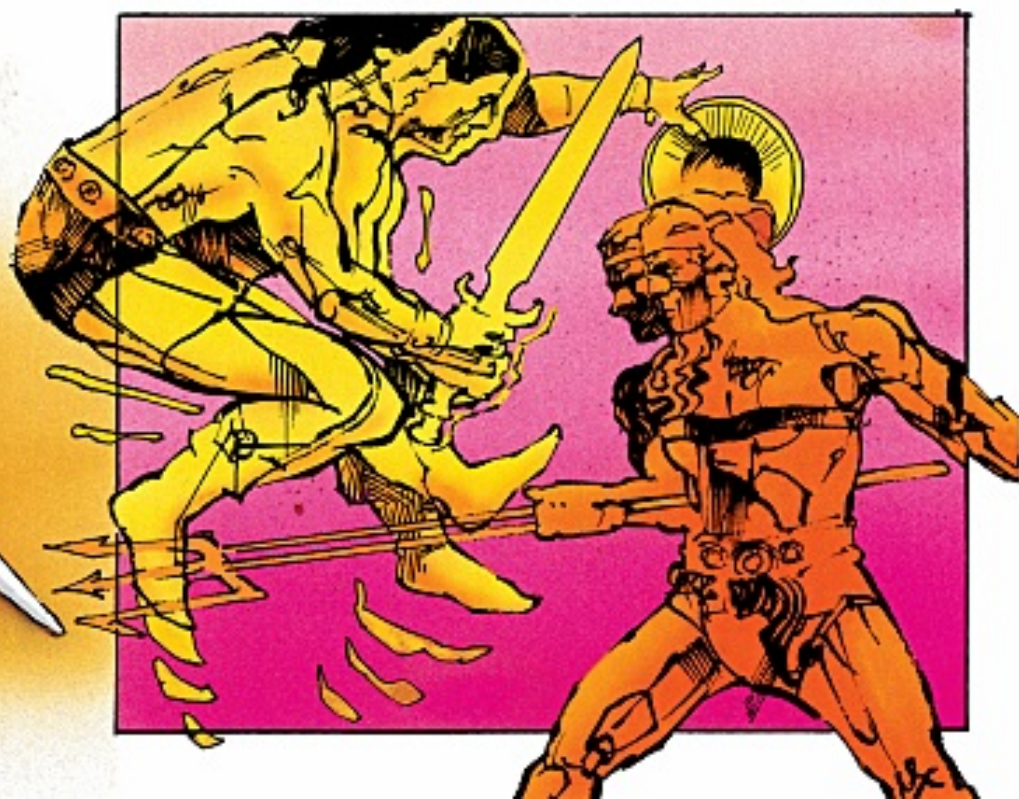






AYE, KULL,
RISKING LIFE
FOR LOVE.













"THE GODS HAVE
NOT EARLIER NOR
SINCE FASHIONED
HIS EQUAL IN
GLORY OF FORM
OR WILL."

KULL
KING KULL

I COME FROM
CLIVES BEYOND
SPACE BEYOND
TIME





A VALE WHERE SHADOW
IS SUBSTANCE AND ALL
SUBSTANCE ILLUSION



BEND TO ME OF YOUR
OWN ACCORD FOR NONE
MAY COUNTER KULL'S
IMMORTAL WILL

WHAT, IS KULL
THEN A SLAVE TO
PRICKLING FLESH
AND HOT BLOOD?

BEGONE, WOMAN,
AND PRACTICE YOUR
BEGUILLINGS ON
ANOTHER.

IF KULL SHOULD
DIE TONIGHT IN THIS FEVERED
LUNACY, WE'LL SAY WE KNEW
THE LAST GIANT THAT
WALKED THIS EARTH.

HE'LL NOT
DIE.

YOU'VE A PICT'S MILE-WIDE STREAK
OF STUBBORNNESS, BRULE--


HE'LL
NOT
DIE.

FROM YOUR
MOUTH TO VALKA'S
EARS, RED-SKIN.





COME KILL
THERE IS ESCAPE IN
OUR EMBRACE



WAY, I AM
PERPLEXED.

THE TOPAZ THRONE
AWAITS ME...

...AND THERE
ARE WORLDS TO
CONQUER YET.

I AM
WORLD ENOUGH
LORD KILL

ALL AROUND
US NATURE RIOTS
INTO BEING AND
SPRING BURSTS
THOUGH THE AIR
STILL NIPS.

YET I AM
BROUGHT TO MIND
OF AN AUTUMN
DAY.



KULL WAS GENERAL THEN OF THE RED SLAYERS, RISEN FROM FIRE-EYED BARBARIAN TO GALLOP OUR REALM AS GUARDIAN OF CULTURED SOCIETY AND ITS GUILTS.



"AYE, LITTLE DID WE KNOW HOW WELL HE HAD GOTTED UP THE WINDING WAYS AND INTRIGUES OF 'ADVANCED' CIVILIZATION..."



WHAT, ABOLISH MY BLACK LEGIONS?!



YOU SEE, GENERAL, A SNATCH--
--A TUNE-- IS MAKING THE ROUNDS
AMONG VALLUISA'S COMMONFOLK.

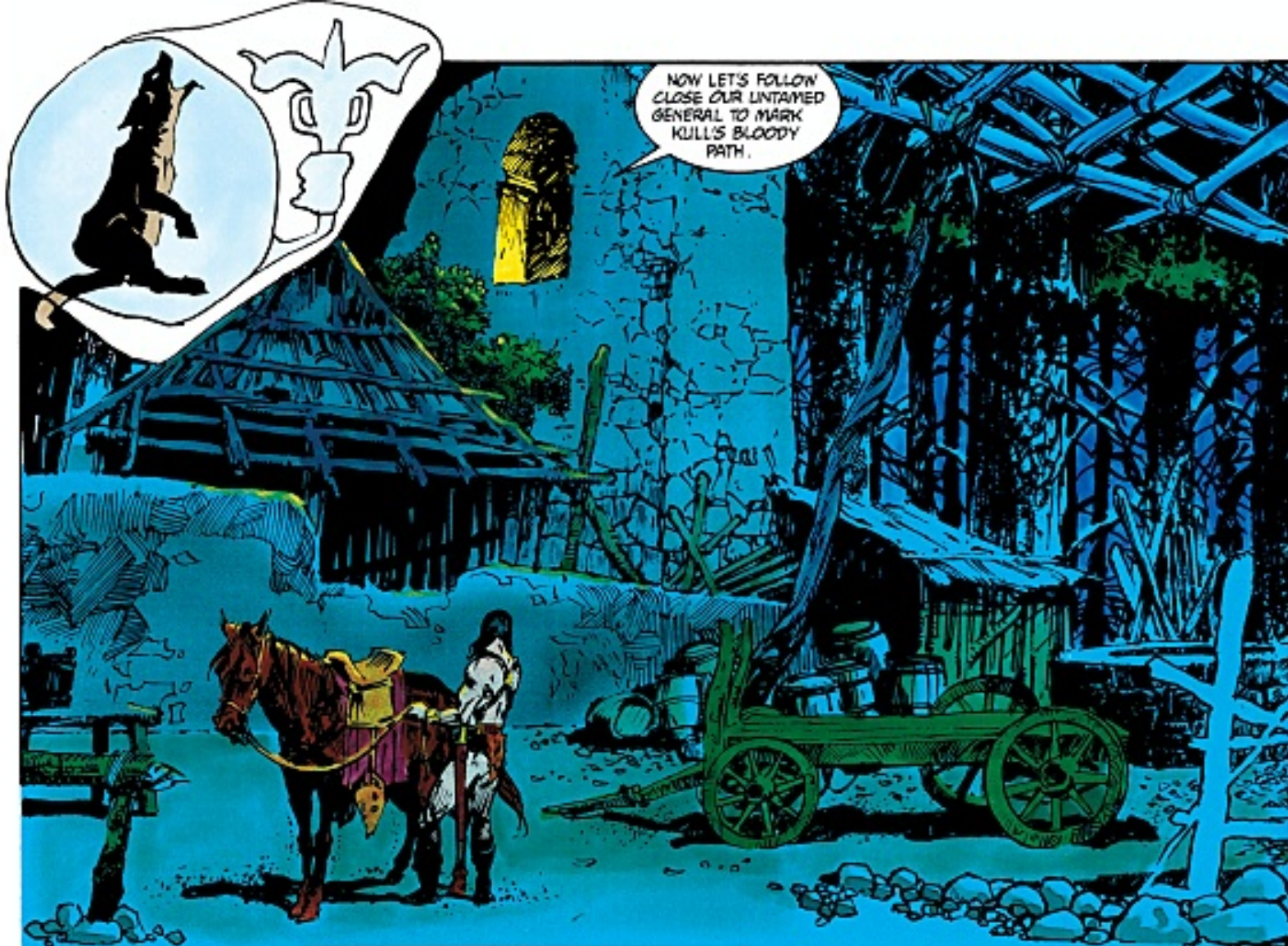
"BORNA HAS
SLAIN THOUSANDS
BUT KULL HAS TENS
OF THOUSANDS."

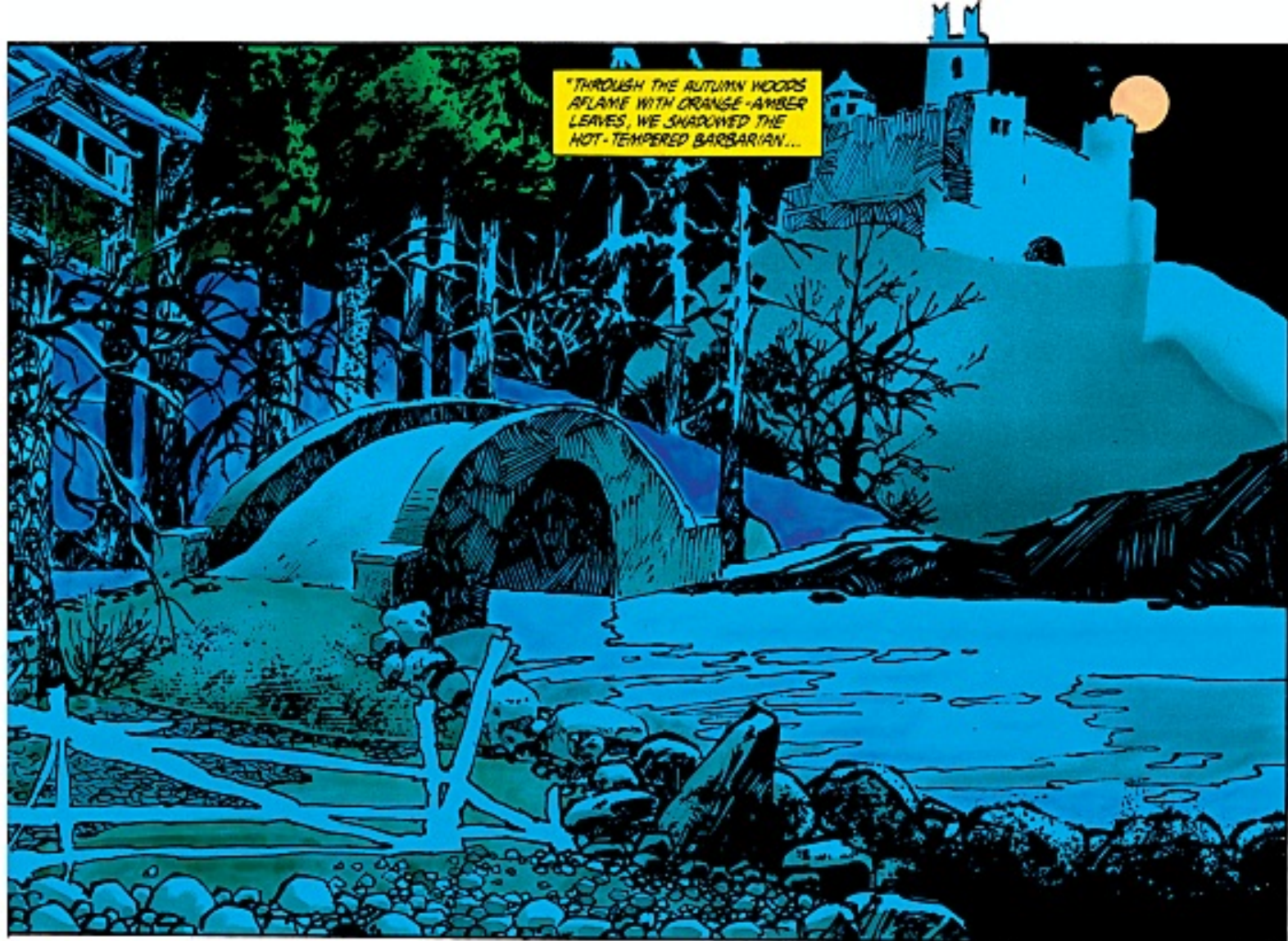
THE KING IS
FEELING, TO PUT
IT MILDLY,
THREATENED.



BLACK LUCK
AND A RED DOOM
ON HIM!





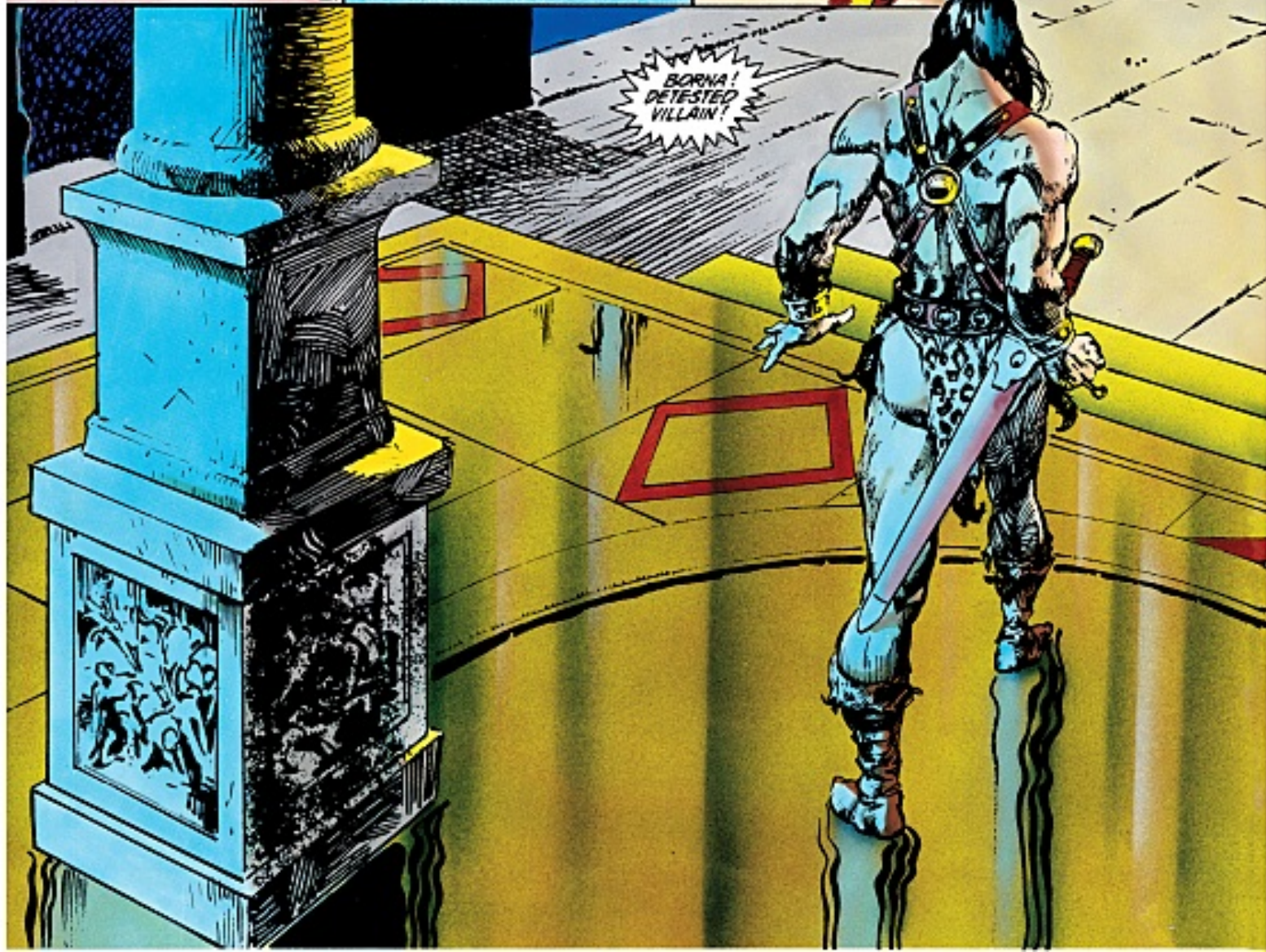


"THROUGH THE AUTUMN WOODS
AFLAME WITH ORANGE-AMBER
LEAVES, WE SHADOWED THE
HOT-TEMPERED BARBARIAN..."



"...WOULD LIGHT
OUR WAY..."







DENY ME
AUDIENCE, WILL
YOU, KING?

BESIDE,
WOMEN!

HAI! YOU DO INDEED
BESMIRCH VALLISIA'S
CROWN--

TRAITOR!

--WHICH GLITTERS SO
LIKE MAGIC IN THIS
FIRELIGHT.









"I DID HATE KULL THAT HOUR, THOUGH WE'VE GROWN FAST SINCE..."

"...FOR THE RED BARBARIAN IN HIM HAD MANAGED TO OUTWIT ALL MY CULTURED AND CRAFTED TRICKERY."

"HE STOLE THE GOLDEN CROWN FROM BARDH KARANUS, AYE, BUT NONE--I'LL SWEAR ON THE HOLY HEAVENS--MORE WORTHY WILL EVER WEAR ITS WEIGHT."

MOST WORTHY KING OF KINGS COME STEP TO

A DANCE OF LOVE AND DEATH

WHAT SWEET CHARMS AND AMULETS DO YOU RAISE AGAINST ME, NYMPH?

VALKA STRIKE ME DEAF TO THE RASP AND RATTLE IN MILORD'S DYING VOICE.

MUST KULL HERE SUCCUMB?





BY ALL
THAT IS DARK AND
DAMNED--

ader
FOLIO



NAY!

WILL YOU FLEE THE
WARMTH OF FLEECE AND
VELVET COVERLEDS BRAVE
KULL LORD OF VALUSIA
LAND OF DREAMS

I KNOW I
SHOULD WITHSTAND,
RESIST, AND TURN.

AND YET,
I CLEAVE, I
CLING--



"OF COURSE KING KULL WOULD NOT
SUBSCRIBE TO SO COMMON SENSIBLE
A VIEW OF THINGS, DREAMER THAT
HE WAS... IS ...



"...SEEKING EVER AFTER
SPIRITS, AND TRUSTING--
SUPERSTITIOUS--IN
MYSTERY AND ILLUSION.

"SOME STRANGE AND SECRET
WISDOM HE HAS ALWAYS
SOUGHT--AS THOUGH THERE
WERE SUCH--BEYOND THE
CURTAIN OF THIS WORLD.



"OFTTIMES I'VE SEEN HIS
EYES, GRAY AS GLACIAL ICE,
SO BLANK--JUST AS HERE
IN HIS AGONY--

"AS THOUGH THEIR GAZE
FELL ON SOME WILD CLIME
BEYOND THIS FIXED SPACE
THROUGH WHICH WE MOR-
TALS SHUFFLE.

"'MUMMERY! SWINDLE!
POPPYCOCK!' I SWORE AT
HIS INCREDIBLE VISIONS.
'COME, COME, LORD KULL,
DO YOU REALLY PUT
STOCK IN THE MAGIC
MURDERS OF TUZAN THANE?
IN TALKING CATS AND
WIZARDRY?'

"IT HAPPENED ONCE IN
KAMULA, THE PLEASURE-
CITY OF SNOWY MARBLE
TO THE NORTH..."



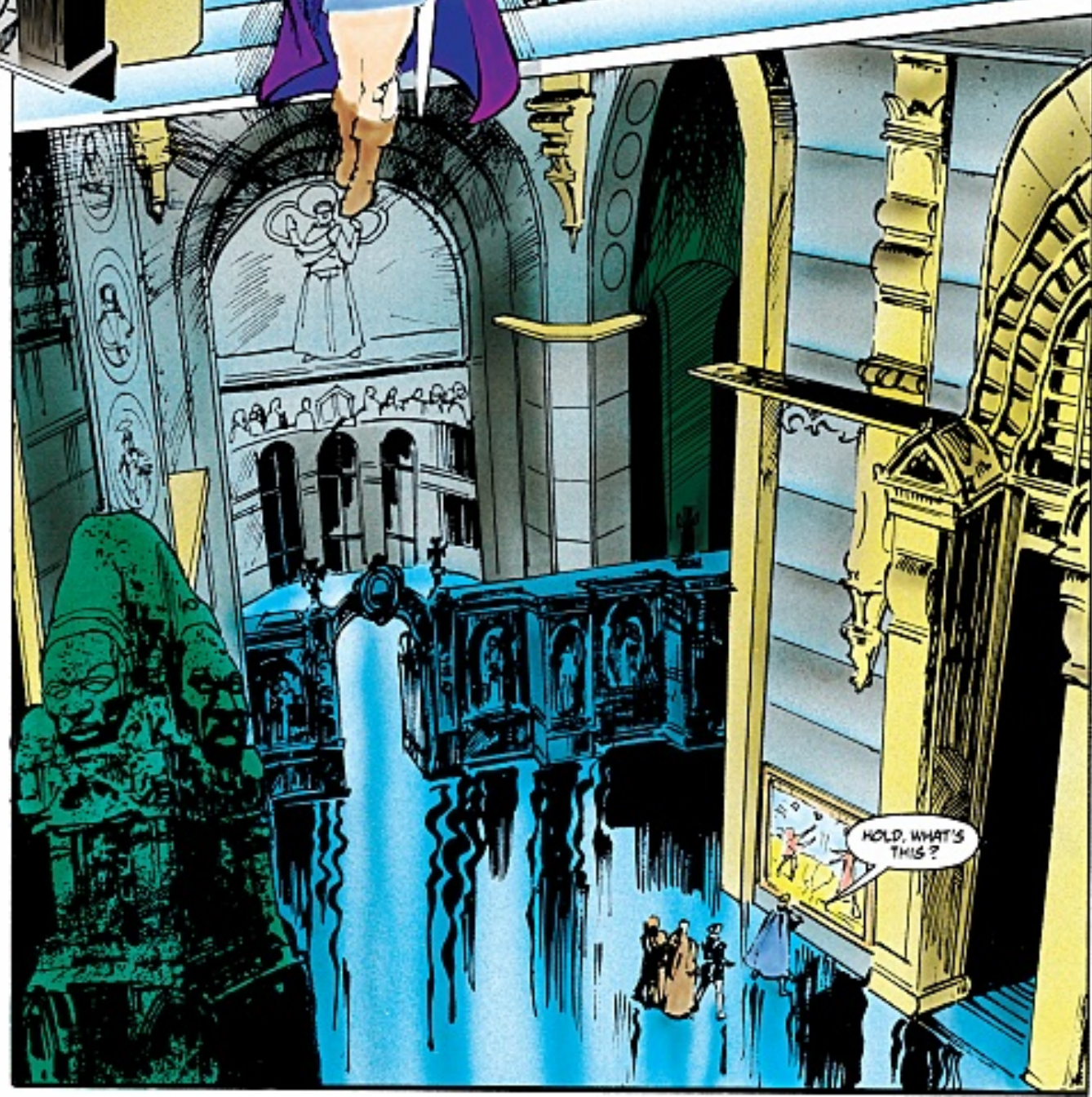
RIDONDO, TU, I AM WEARY WITH THIS COURT. I FEEL A STRANGENESS UPON ME AND A LONGING BEYOND LIFE'S LONGING.



PERHAPS HIS MAJESTY WOULD TAKE PLEASURE IN RHYMED COUPLETS? OR HEAR ME HUM SOFT MELODIES?

VALKA, NO, MINSTREL.





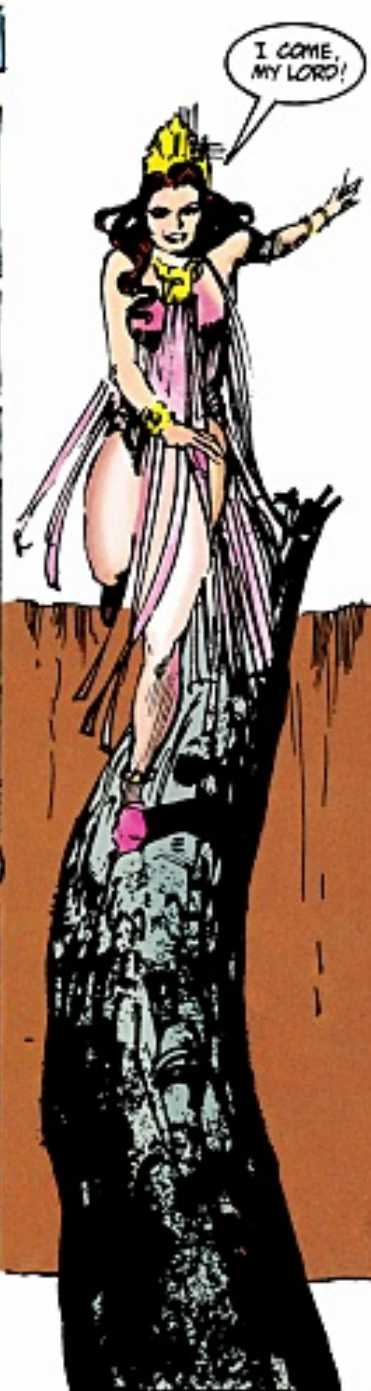
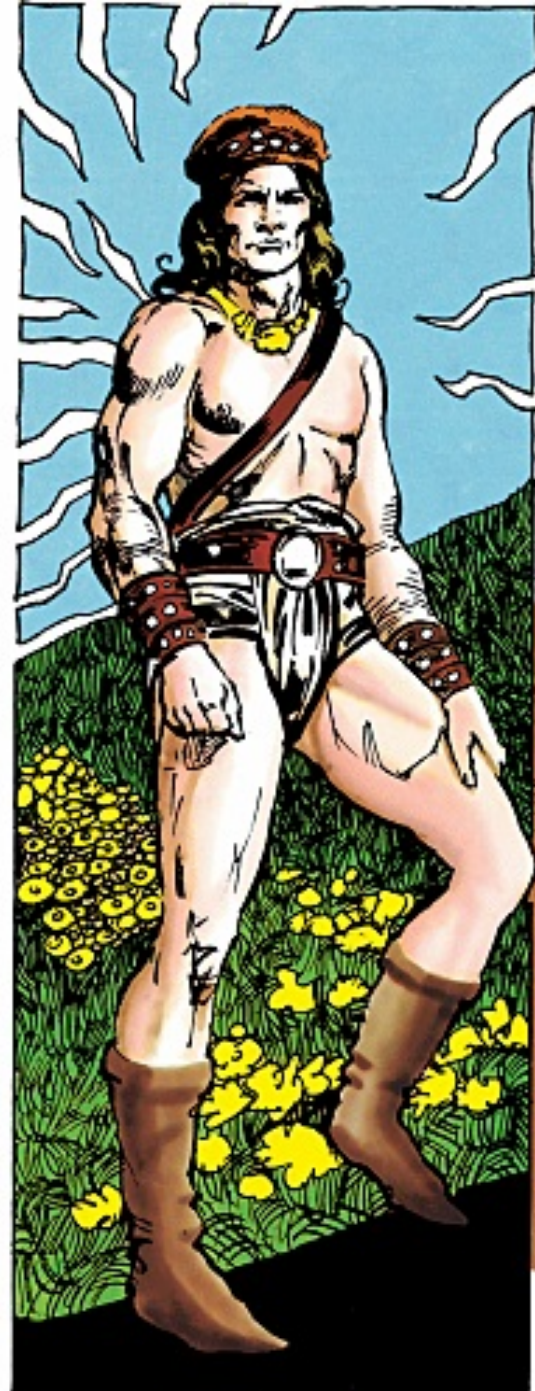








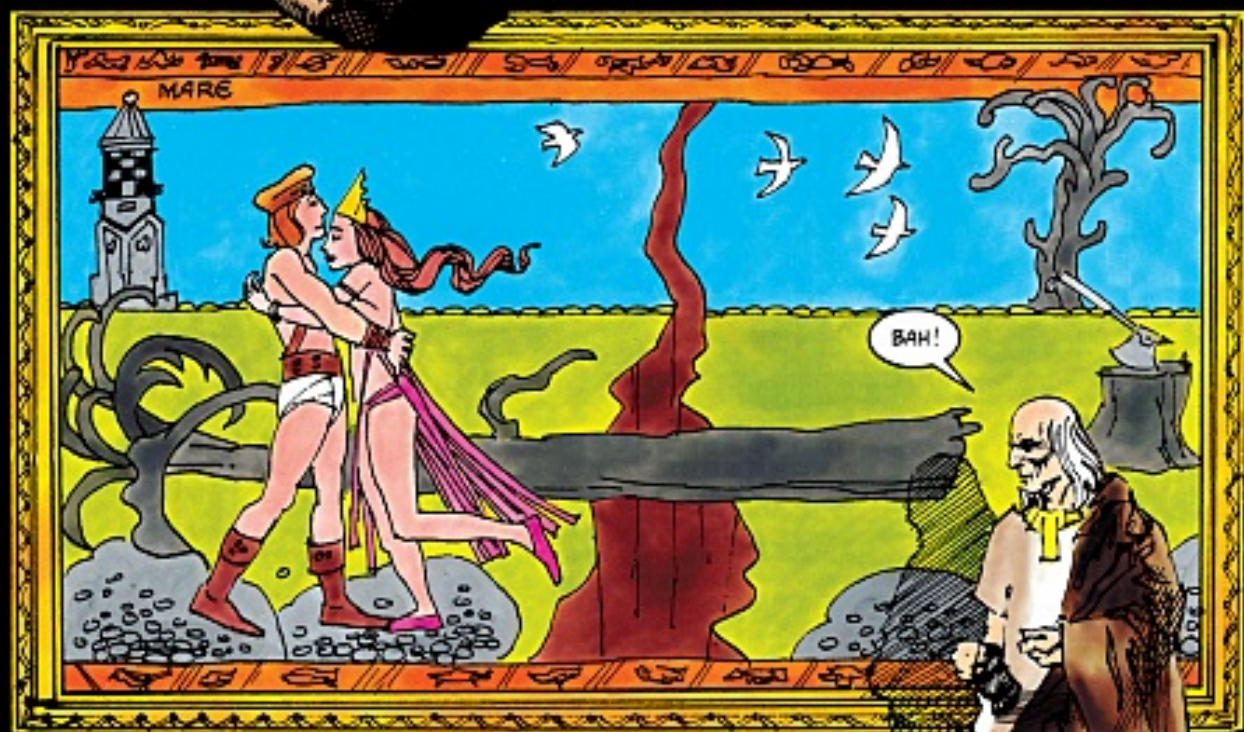








KULL SWORE THE
FRESCOES OF KAYULA
WERE MAGICAL AND
STRANGE.



"I CHECKED THEM LATER BY
MYSELF AND NOTED ONLY THAT
THE WALLS NEEDED FRESH
WHITENASH AND SPACKLE. HA!"



NOW BUT PRESS YOUR
LIPS TO MINE AND I SHALL
RETURN KISSES HARD
AND NUMBERED

MUST I
YIELD,
GODDESS?



MUST I THEN
ALREADY DIE?

FOR THERE ARE GREAT
AND TERRIBLE THINGS I
WOULD YET DO --

TOPPLE MOUNTAINS
TO THE EARTH, AND
BEND MY BOW TO THE
SUN'S FIERY EYE...


...DAM UP THE
VERY OCEANS, AND
CATCH THE WINDS
IN OPEN NETS...

...THEN CAST THEM
IN BREEZES TOWARD
LOVERS ON THEIR
SWINGS BENEATH
THE BOUGHS...

...TO DREAM ALL
WISDOM IN ONE NIGHT
AND WAKE UP ALL-
KNOWING IN THE
MORN!

THEN WHEN I HAVE
PROVEN YOUR WORTHY
MATE, MISTRESS, LET US
KISS ACROSS A MILLION
WORLDS UNTIL ETERNITY
ITSELF DARKENS
AND DIES.

KULL



YOU DO SEDUCE YOUR
SEDUCER WITH WORDS THAT
PROMISE MIGHTY DEEDS
OF SINOW AND HEART

MORE IN
TRUTH THAN MERE
WORDS

FOR KULL'S
WORDS ARE
PROVEN
DEEDS

AND KULL'S
DEEDS ARE LIFE'S
MAGNIFICENCE

COME THEN
I SHALL DO WHAT
HAS NEVER BEEN

AFFORD THEE GRACE
UNPARALLELED IN
MORTAL TIME

FOR DEATH
SHALL BITE AT
THY FLESHY
LIPS



AND LEAVE THEE
BREATHING STILL



TO LIFE'S BATTLE
WARRIOR AND KNIGHT
THY MISTRESS SHALL
WAIT 'TIL THY RETURN



WHAT, COUNCILORS
WILL YOU STAND ABOUT
LIKE HIRED
MOURNERS?

SUN'S UP, AND
THERE ARE DEEDS
TO BE DONE!



FOR KULL'S YET
KING UPON VALLUSIA'S
THRONE.





KULL THE CONQUEROR . . .

In the timelost age of Atlantis—an age of heroes, broadswords, and ancient sorcery—King Kull strides like a colossus across the Seven Empires.

A fire-eyed barbarian of superhuman strength, Kull carves a path of blood and havoc to the Topaz Throne of Valusia, Land of Dreams.

There his name becomes legend for great and terrible deeds. But unrest ever stirs Kull's soul, and he longs for the strange and secret wisdom beyond the curtains of reality.

Then one day, waging war against the kingdom of Commoria, Kull falls wounded in battle on the gore-strewn field. Now Kull the Magnificent must face his darkest foe as Death comes to call in a guise of deadly and seductive beauty.